

Message Text

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61

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 IO-14 ACDA-19 DRC-01 /131 W

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R 311719Z MAY 74

FM USMISSION BERLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3464

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION NATO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, WB, GW

SUBJECT: FEDERAL CHANCELLOR'S VISIT TO

BERLIN MAY 30 WHICH HE DESCRIBED TO MISSION OFFICER AS

"SHORT BUT EFFECTIVE." PROGRAM, DESIGNED TO CONFIRM LINK

BETWEEN BONN AND BERLIN, INCLUDED VISIT TO AEG FACTORY,

MEETING WITH SENAT AND OTHER POLITICIANS, INCLUDING

BERLIN CDU AND FDP LEADERS, AND PRESS CONFERENCE. IN COURSE

OF AFTERNOON, CHANCELLOR MADE NUMEROUS STATEMENTS THAT

BONN WOULD CONTINUE OSTPOLITIK AS WELL AS CONTINUE

TO PROVIDE FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR BERLIN. SPEAKING AT

AEG, SCHMIDT EXPLAINED THAT BONN WOULD TAKE SPECIAL INTEREST

IN BERLIN'S ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND SAID IT WOULD BE

NECESSARY FOR BERLIN TO KEEP UP WITH WORLDWIDE ECONOMIC

PROGRESS, I.E., PRODUCTION OF HIGHEST TECHNICAL QUALITY

GOODS IN ORDER TO SERVE AS WEST GERMANY'S "GATEWAY TO THE

WORLD."

2. SCHMIDT TOLD PRESS CONFERENCE HE DID NOT PLAN TO

MEET WITH EAST GERMAN PARTY CHIEF HONECKER BUT WOULD

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VISIT MOSCOW THIS YEAR. CHANCELLOR ALSO DENIED INTEREST

IN TAKING OVER SPD CHAIRMANSHIP AND SAID HE NOT ONLY
FORESAW NO PROBLEMS WORKING WITH BRANDT BUT AS LONG AS
HE HELD GOVERNMENT POSITION (STAATSAMT) HE WOULD NOT WANT
TO BE CHAIRMAN OF PARTY.

3. IN COMMENTING ON FUTURE ROLE OF BERLIN BEVOLLMAECHTIGTE,
SCHMIDT SAID SPANGENBERG WOULD ATTEND CABINET MEETINGS
ON AD HOC BASIS UNLIKE BAHR, WHO AS MINISTER ATTENDED
ALL CAINET MEETINGS A CHANGE DIE WELT CHARACTERIZED
AS SIGNIFICANT SWITCH IN EMPHASIS FROM POLITICAL FUNCTION
TO ADMINISTRATIVE FUNCTION. SCHMIDT ONCE OR TWICE GAVE VENT
TO HIS FAMOUS TEMPER, CALLING ONE OF BERLIN PRESS
PROVINCIAL AND DESCRIBING SOME QUESTIONS AS DUMB. COMMENT:
VISIT CONTAINED NO SURPRISES, SERVED LARGELY SYMBOLIC PURPOSE,
AND ON BALANCE CAN BE CONSIDERED SUCCESSFUL.BORG

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, HEAD OF GOVERNMENT VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 31 MAY 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974BERLIN00918
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740138-0658
From: BERLIN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t1974055/aaaaadnh.tel
Line Count: 76
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <24 APR 2002 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <25 MAR 2003 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FEDERAL CHANCELLOR'S VISIT TO BERLIN MAY 30 WHICH HE DESCRIBED TO MISSION OFFICER AS
TAGS: PINT, WB, GE
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005